**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS** 

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully

requested.

By the present Preliminary Amendment claims 1-5 are canceled without prejudice and

new claims 6-13 are presented for examination. New claims 6-13 are deemed to be self-

evident from the original disclosure, including the original claims, and thus are not deemed to

raise any issues of new matter.

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough

examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is

hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,

Surch Sachan

MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Gregory J. Maier **Customer Number** 

Registration No. 25,599 22850

Surinder Sachar

Registration No. 34,423 Tel: (703) 413-3000 Attorneys of Record

Fax: (703) 413 -2220

I:\ATTY\SNS\286407US-PR.DOC

(OSMMN 06/04)